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APRIL 14, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

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*Welcome
to the*

Journal

**THE BEAR NECESSITIES
ON THE GROWN-UP
AND GORGEOUS NEW
'JUNGLE BOOK' THAT'S
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BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM



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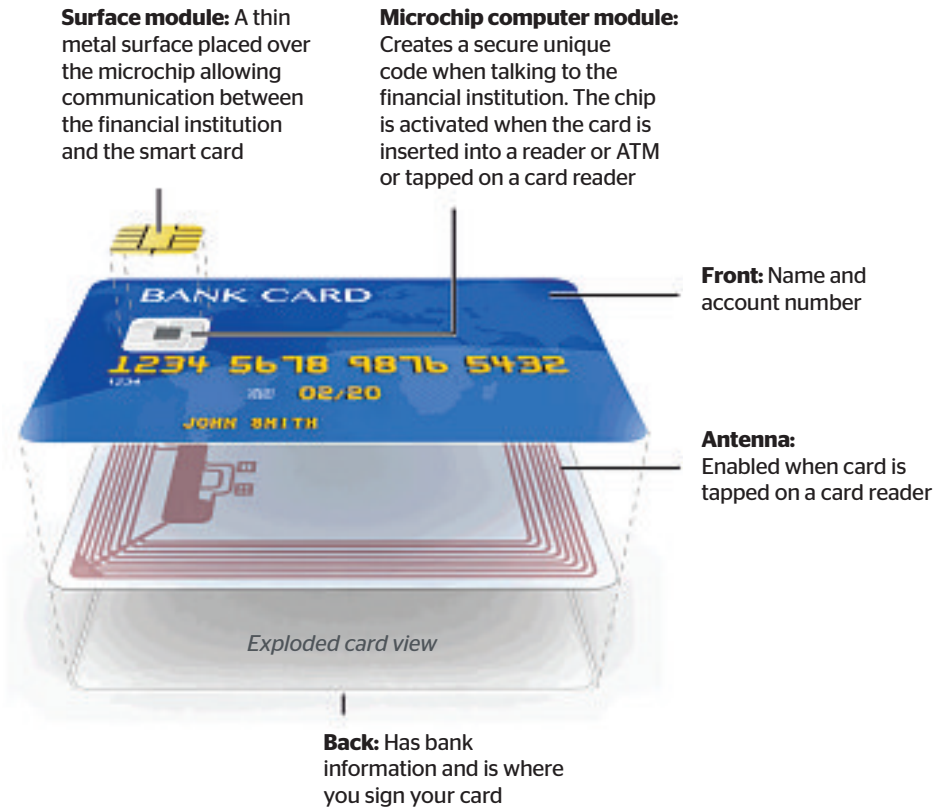


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Why do new chip cards take so long to process?

By Jemal R. Brinson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

PLEASE DON'T REMOVE YOUR CARD. PROCESSING. PLEASE WAIT.

We've all been there: Standing by the register, chip card in the reader. Waiting.

What exactly is happening that is taking so long?

The delay is due to the added security features, the primary reason for using the technology. Specifically, the chip in the card is generating a unique encrypted message between the store and the bank's network. The bank sends a secure message back and then you're good to go. Go ahead and remove your card.

All of this is more secure than the old slide-card technology, said Randy Vanderhoof, executive director of Smart Card Alliance.

What's inside a smart card?

EMV bankcard technology uses a microchip and software to make a payment transaction secure. The chip embedded in the card has the same computing power as an IBM PC XT or 386

computer. When that chip card is used to pay at checkout, two computers begin talking to each other—the card and the terminal, said Jack Jania, senior vice president of strategic alliances for the financial services group Gemalto North America.

There are three kinds of cards on the market: contact, contactless and dual-interface cards. Contact cards need to be inserted into a reader, while contactless cards are tapped against a reader. Dual-interface cards have come into being because they can be used at older terminals in a contact mode and newer terminals in a contactless mode without needing to have any other device, said David Tushie, standards and technical representative with the International Card Manufacturers Association. **TRIBUNE GRAPHICS**

How chip cards work

STEP 1

Inserting the card: When the card is inserted into a reader or an ATM, the chip is activated and begins to make contact with the software running on the reader or ATM. Unlike magnetic strip technology, which is static, the EMV card creates a unique code that is only valid for that specific transaction.

STEP 2

Sending a message to the bank:

An encrypted message is then sent from the store or ATM to the bank with specific information on the transaction, which includes account number; expiration date of card; terminal or merchant ID; dollar value of the transaction; whether payment is credit, debit or other; date and time of transaction; and additional service codes.

STEP 3

Bank approval: The financial institution's processor decodes the message, authenticates the data and sends back a secure message to the merchant signaling that the transaction has been approved.

STEP 4

Card is removed: Enter signature on terminal or merchant receipt, if required. The transaction is complete.

When do I sign or enter a PIN?

Whether you have to sign or put your PIN code in depends on the merchant and amount you're spending, the buttons you push after the terminal prompts and the guidelines your bank has set up, said Randy Vanderhoof of Smart Card Alliance.

Credit: With credit card purchases, merchants are required to capture a signature either by a receipt or by signing on the payment terminal itself if the transaction is above \$25 in value. If the transaction is below \$25 the merchant is not required to capture a signature. The prompt for a signature can be controlled by the merchant. For example, some big merchants such as Home Depot and Wal-Mart have negotiated higher purchasing thresholds for customers.

Debit: If your debit card has a chip, you may be prompted to enter your PIN just like if you were using the card at an ATM. Other times the transaction will go through with just a signature. At the end of the day, signing or entering a PIN will depend on the merchant, the buttons you push on the terminal prompts and what your bank has set up in regard to signatures and PIN codes.

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threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at [@redeyechicago](#) or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to redeye@redeyechicago.com with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

Is it awkward to tell a girl that you have never kissed anyone before—right before the first kiss? —Question via Reddit



Fred
Single, 35
» Host of "Fred and Angi in the Morning" on 103.5 KISS-FM
» @fredonair

Yes, it is. Do not do that. While it may become quite clear while kissing that you're a rookie due to an out-of-place tongue, excessive drool and overall lack of finesse (just to name a few culprits), what will surely make the situation even more uncomfortable is foreshadowing all of those potential elements in a pre-kiss speech.

So I vote for a conservative approach. Don't try to climb Everest on the first attempt. Go for base camp one without too many bells and whistles in executing said first kiss. Conservative and clean in your kissing style will likely advance you to another smooch. And while an opportunity may arise after your first kiss to share your inexperience as a funny anecdote, it could inadvertently detract from the moment if shared right then.

Kissing is very important to most people, but if the feeling is there, perhaps the person you're kissing will guide you through the process moving forward and suggest ways to do so just how they desire it. Oh, and don't become a human washing-machine kisser. Almost nobody likes that.



Keri Wiginton
Married, 33
» Photo editor and part-time advice giver at the Chicago Tribune
» @keriphot

Yes. Unless you're under the age of 14, I would suggest keeping that information to yourself. Confidently go in for the kiss, and you'll be fine. Or not, but telling the other person you're a novice will likely only dampen the mood.



Michelle Lopez
Married, 32
» Designer, Web editor for The Mash
» @michelleglopez

I'm of the mindset that a situation is only awkward if you make it awkward, so it doesn't necessarily guarantee your confession is going to be met with the longest silence ever, or worse—a laugh. She may be super cool and shrug it off. But to be safe, let's hold off on telling her right before it's going to happen.

It's a great start to be so honest with someone you care about. But what exactly are you looking for in a response? If this truly is an insecurity for you, are you seeking reassurance? Or covering yourself in case she doesn't get swept off her feet? Believe me, most people's first kisses aren't straight out of a rom-com.

No one would ever expect you to say the opposite and tell someone right before you lean in that they are the 25th person you've kissed. So try not to fret, and just let the first kiss unfold as it will. Why put extra pressure on the moment? Even if it doesn't go according to plan, you'll still have crossed it off your relationship bucket list.



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Tony Simmons

TEN-HUT!

MEET THE CHICAGO 'LAND ANIMAL' TACKLING FOX'S MILITARY-STYLE SHOW

By Lena Blietz | REDEYE

Not training for a military-themed reality show sounds like a miserable plan.

But that's exactly what Chicago native Tony Simmons did as he geared up for "American Grit," which debuts at 8 p.m. Thursday on Fox.

Oh, and the show is hosted by pro wrestler John Cena, which ups the intimidation factor just a tad (note sarcasm).

"I didn't prepare for it, that's the thing," said Simmons, a 41-year-old former second-round NFL draft pick. "My daily routine is to stay fit, to make sure I'm a better athlete every day."

Viewers will soon find out if his approach is enough to put his team over the top. Simmons, who now makes a living coaching football in Poland, joins one of four four-person teams vying for a \$1 million prize.

How did your background in football, as a player and a coach, prepare you for the show differently from your other competitors' backgrounds?

Well, I've been an athlete all my life, mostly. What prepared me? I can take direction,

as a coach. And there are other coaches on there, and trainers, so we all know how to give directions. And sometimes we've got to learn how to take directions and also how to become a leader as a coach and taking responsibility for the decisions you make.

Are there any examples of exercises from the show you plan to incorporate into future football practices?

We actually did something that's similar to the trust fall; it's called the trust walk. The trust walk technically puts you through a series of obstacles that you had to walk through blindfolded without the person holding you. You just had to listen to the person's voice and actually take direction from someone else that was leading you versus someone walking with you and holding your hand. What it basically taught me was that everyone communicates differently.

In the show there is one situation where something happens to one of your teammates and it cuts to you concerned and tearing up. Were you expecting to become so close so quickly with your teammates and

concerned about their well-being?

[My teammates] became my family right away, and when anything happens to my teammates, even when I'm playing football or when I'm coaching with my guys, I am really concerned and I bring them into my family and I bring them into my care.

Going off that, what was it like losing teammates and knowing each week that someone could be going home?

Well, you know in that situation it's a competition. So you lose a teammate and have no clue what's going to happen. And in football, you lose teammates to injury. You don't know if they're going to come back if they break a leg; someone could actually be gone for a year or retire from sports. You don't know what is going to happen, but you need to be prepared for it. And that's the one thing about this competition: Some things you just can't prepare for.

Could you talk about what kind of influence Chicago has had on your life, as a player and as a coach?

Chicago has played a big role in my life; it

taught me how to survive. I was living down in the South Side, and it taught me how to push myself harder. I wanted to move forward in life and get more out of life. I had to push myself harder than I've ever pushed before. One thing I did learn how to do in Chicago was run. I learned to run and climb gates and have all of those obstacles in front of me. One of the good things about Chicago was it really taught me how to be a land animal.

So it's a military-themed show, it's kind of a tribute to the military; did it make you more appreciative of or change your opinion of military members?

I always had an appreciation; I had friends that went into the military. I was going to go into the military out of high school because I couldn't afford to go to college, and I was fortunate enough to get a scholarship to the University of Wisconsin. But I respect all members of the military, and now I respect them even more. I know what they go through, because I went through it in sports.

Interview has been edited for clarity and length.
LENA BLIETZ IS A REDEYE INTERN.
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LaRoche opens up on leaving Sox, fighting sex slavery

By Colleen Kane | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Adam LaRoche spent several nights deciding whether he should leave baseball, and ultimately he told his teammates he was choosing his son over them, the former Sox designated hitter revealed in an interview with ESPN the Magazine.

LaRoche also spoke about his time working for a nonprofit organization called The Exodus Road. He and Brewers pitcher Blaine Boyer did undercover surveillance on sex slavery in Southeast Asia brothels last November, an experience that author Tim Keown points to as something that has influenced LaRoche over the past year.

"I was sick," LaRoche said. "I was thinking about my kids and then thinking about the hundreds of thousands of parents who are searching for their 12-year-old daughters."

As for the controversy surrounding his son, Drake, LaRoche told the magazine he understands the issues involved in bringing a 14-year-old into the clubhouse every day, but he said he always asked managers to go to him if there was a problem.

"I'm not saying this is the way everybody



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/TRIBUNE FILE

should raise their kid," LaRoche said. "I'm saying I was given the privilege to raise my kid this way by some awesome teams and managers and GMs. Can every parent do it? No. But can we spend more time with our kids? Sure. I feel like I've spent as much time with Drake

as you can, and if he were to die tomorrow, I guarantee you I'd be looking back and saying I wish I spent more time with him."

He also told the magazine that he would not file a grievance to try to get back some of the \$13 million he left on the table by retiring.



Jonathan Toews and St. Louis Blues center Paul Stastny

AP PHOTO

THE DIGIT

\$175

That's the average price for tickets on the secondary market for Game 3 of the playoff series between the Blackhawks and Blues, according to StubHub. The average for Game 4 is \$160, and it's even less for Game 2 in St. Louis at \$114.

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Animal House

‘The Jungle Book’ is more than just a kids’ movie

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

“Oh, they have brownies!” Most movie stars don’t burst into interview suites this way. But Neel Sethi is 12 years old, so maybe you’d expect that he’d have this reaction to the assortment of snacks at the Peninsula Hotel. Though the young actor had to wait until later for the sweets, during our conversation he was as unlikely to sit still as his character, Mowgli (a young boy raised by wolves and working to stay alive in the jungle among a variety of animals voiced by stars such as Bill Murray and Scarlett Johansson) in the new, CGI-enhanced, live-action adaptation of “The Jungle Book.” Next to Sethi during our interview was his director,

Jon Favreau, who several times has taken material that might have been targeted only at young-ish viewers (“Elf,” “Iron Man”) and made it beloved among countless ex-kids.

So maybe it’s also not that surprising that “The Jungle Book”—opening Friday and inspired by both the 1967 animated Disney classic and the book by Rudyard Kipling—is more than just your average kiddie fare. The movie is such a stunningly believable exploration of the Indian jungle that it’s hard to believe it filmed entirely in a warehouse and was then illustrated with CGI.

“It’s appropriate in theme and content for kids, but it’s something that’s interesting, and even if you’re not a kid, you’re going to want

to go see it because it’s such a spectacle,” said Favreau, 49, an actor probably still best known for his 1996 breakout hit, “Swingers.”

Spectacle is the right word. Think of the sweeping visuals of “The Revenant” or the immersive world of “Avatar”—those effects have been harnessed to bring new, different life to a beloved story. But when you turn a cartoon tiger into a “real” beast (terrifyingly voiced by Idris Elba, no less), the story loses its cute factor and becomes suspenseful pretty quickly.

“I believe in the thing that actually Walt [Disney] did as well, which is tell the old stories with new technology,” Favreau said. “And then you get a really interesting combo.”

Favreau’s experience as an action filmmaker

shows itself throughout “The Jungle Book” with tons of movement, chase scenes and physical daring. Sethi underwent parkour training in preparation for his role, and it makes sense when you see him scale walls and trees and dart through the jungle as fluidly as his animal friends and family. To add to this effect, Favreau and his team of artists employed tricks (like mud “splashing” the camera as Mowgli runs by) to make the audience forget they’re watching computer animation.

“I feel very fortunate in getting to use the tools that are normally only reserved for films with high-tech characters, explosions, robots, superheroes,” Favreau said. “And to have this available to me to use it for humor and music

and emotion, I felt confident that within the tone of this film, we could still make it exciting and bump it up.”

But to Favreau, the real key to bringing the story to life was finding the right actors to voice his menagerie of characters. Every choice, from Murray as Baloo the bear to Christopher Walken as King Louie the ape, fits so perfectly that they feel obvious in hindsight. Part of the allure of “The Jungle Book” is to hear these very famous actors bring their animals to life, another trick Favreau said he stole from Disney. The 1967 version also was voiced by some of the biggest stars of its day, including actor George Sanders and big band leader Louis Prima.

“I work very tenaciously in the beginning

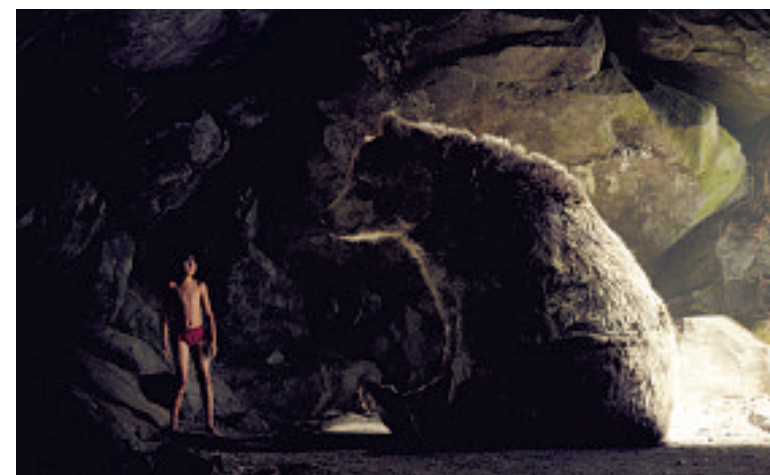
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To Sethi, the best fit is Ben Kingsley’s portrayal of Bagheera the panther.

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When asked what he thinks Mowgli would be up to in a “Jungle Book 2,” Sethi said that while he hasn’t seen the old “Jungle Book 2” cartoon (it was made in 2003 and starred John Goodman and Haley Joel Osment—look it up), he thinks a sequel could explore what happens once Mowgli becomes more of a man.

“I got a book from the book fair and it was



‘Jungle Book’ grew up to be gorgeous



Lauren Chval

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Though “The Jungle Book” largely was shot in a Los Angeles warehouse, it seriously looks like a beautiful journey through the Indian jungle. Every leaf is too real to be from a computer. Every animal moves like the beasts you’ve seen at the zoo. It’s one thing for James Cameron to craft his own vision of an alien planet in “Avatar”; it’s another

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Yes, this “Jungle Book” is another take on Rudyard Kipling’s stories about a boy, a bear and a panther trying to survive together in the wild, which you may vaguely recall in its 1967 Disney musical form. The 2016 version is both a lot darker and the rare movie that delivers a real spectacle—thanks to the combination of gorgeous visuals and Favreau’s action-flick background. As Mowgli (Neel Sethi) runs with wolves, fights Shere Khan the tiger (voiced by Idris Elba) and escapes King Louie the ape (voiced by Christopher Walken), there are plenty of fast-moving scenes that would

feel at home in the Marvel universe.

With so much to look at, Favreau and writer Justin Marks are wise to keep the story simple, almost mythic. Bagheera the panther (voiced by Ben Kingsley) guides as a narrator and as Mowgli’s mentor, and the story primarily follows Mowgli’s journey of self-discovery. “Don’t you know what you are? I know where you came from,” hisses the great python Kaa (voiced by Scarlett Johansson). Who is he, where did he come from, who are his people—and are all of those questions tied to one truth?

It helps that this tale is perfectly brought to life by some of the industry’s most dynamic voices, including Lupita Nyong’o as Raksha the wolf and Bill Murray as Baloo the bear.

Everything rolls along smoothly until the end. The 1967 cartoon (49-years-late spoiler alert) saw Mowgli returning to his kind in the man village, but perhaps Marks thought that was too simple a conclusion to Mowgli’s identity struggle. The alternative fails to address some of the concerns that set the boy’s journey in motion to begin with. Of course, by movie’s end you’re almost too struck by the visuals to even listen to the words.

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movies

Animal House

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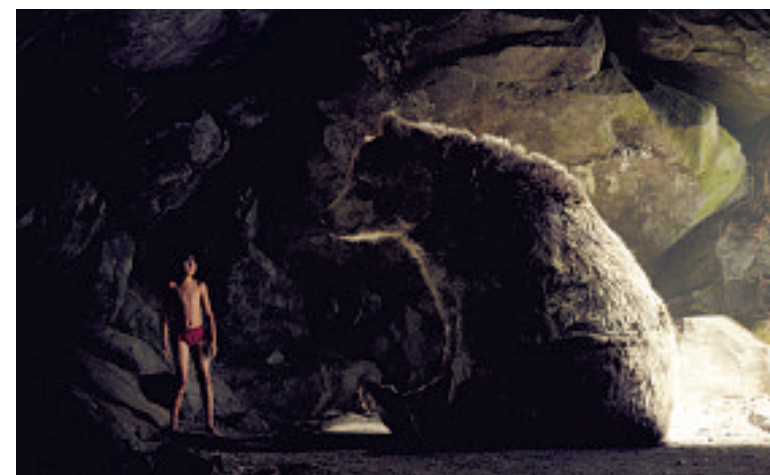
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A BAD PICK FOR SOX AMBASSADOR?

NOT A CHANCE

NY POST WRITER'S TAKE ON CHANCE THE RAPPER IS MISLEADING AT BEST

AP PHOTO



Josh Terry

» jterry@redeye.chicago.com
» @joshhterry

Last week, Chicago hearts were warmed by the news that local hip-hop hero Chance the Rapper is in talks to become the White Sox's club ambassador, a role that would pay him to be involved with team activities and, in turn, get younger fans interested in the sport. With that, along with his instantly sold-out redesigned Sox caps, it seemed like a perfect fit. However, one man at a semi-respectable publication disagrees.

In the New York Post on Monday, columnist Phil Mushnick wrote an op-ed berating the potential move titled, "Challenge to White Sox, ESPN hosts: Recite Chance the Rapper lyrics." He argues, "Chance records and sells pro forma, no-upside, can't-expect-better-from-us, women-denigrating, blood-on-the-breeze rap," so why should he be honored with such a prominent role with the team? With logic like that, I have my own headline in mind: "Challenge to NY Post editors: Please actually read your writer's bad Chance the Rapper take."

To his credit, Mushnick admits he has no idea who Chance is before spending 600 words proving he truly doesn't: "Chance's real name is Chancelor Bennett; he's 22, unmarried with a child, grew up in suburban Chicago," he asserts. Grossly-coded "unmarried with a child" language aside (is being an unmarried parent really something a person is arguing people should be ashamed about in 2016?), your first indication that this is going to be a bumpy ride is his assumption that Chance's Chatham home is "suburban Chicago."

OK, but let's see what his real issue is. "It was suggested that I choose from random any of Chance's songs to get a sense of whom the White Sox would choose as their first Ambassador," he writes before adding, "I spun the Google wheel and landed on 'Smoke Again.'" (I'm curious to know what search he used, as "Angels" and "Sunday Candy" are much more prominent. I guess Chance's love letters to his city and his grandma aren't good fuel for the faux-outrage fire.) He found the song, and Chance, to be, "Standard dehumanizing gangsta rap — young black men are N****s, he's especially fond of dope and regards young women as a sub-species in over-and-out service to his immediate libidinous whims, especially oral sex."

Admittedly, "Smoke Again" isn't the most progressive. But, if we're going to hold other artists to the same standard, we should never play Jimmy Buffett (his Coral Reefer band isn't named after the ocean), Madonna ("Like A Virgin"), Willie Nelson (you'll get a contact high at

every show), AC/DC's "Thunderstruck" or any Led Zeppelin ("The Lemon Song" especially), The Rolling Stones (LOL) or arguably every popular song ever in a sports stadium. Even so, in the context of 2013 hip-hop, of a then-20-year-old rapper, the lyrics are pretty tame. It's sexist in the way that all aspects of pop culture are sexist. That's not to say the sexism in those lyrics is 100 percent OK, but there are bigger fish to fry and better arguments to make.

Chance, who Mushnick correctly notes was a new father to a baby girl in September, said this in an Apple Music interview: "I'm so much more understanding of love. I didn't know love until I had my daughter. I didn't know its bounds." On stage at his Chicago Theatre show on Friday, he said having a daughter made him respect women more. It's tough to see him rapping the same things he did at 20 going forward.

The picture of Chance that Mushnick is painting is misleading at best. Along with his Rahm Emanuel-given "Youth of the Year Award," Chance hosted a free concert for youth with the Chicago Park District last year, has hosted "Open Mike" events to foster a safe after-school space for high school-aged creatives and recently raised more than \$100,000 to fund 10,000 coats for the homeless. Chance is the first act to release a full-length album on iTunes for free (it was downloaded over a half-million times in a week) and the first fully independent artist to be the musical guest on "Saturday Night Live," and he is responsible for five of the best songs on Kanye West's "The Life of Pablo." As someone lucky enough to cover local music, I can say unequivocally that there is no more inspiring figure in the community than Chance the Rapper.

Mushnick was once known for bravely fighting corporate corruption, hypocrisy and greed and sticking up for the little guy, but he is now known as the guy who wondered in 2012 whether the Brooklyn Nets should change their name to "the New York N****s" because Jay Z, an African-American who has said that word, had a share in the team. And now, he's calling Chicago's 2014 "Outstanding Youth of the Year Award" winner a bad example for kids. Seriously. But, as I'm sure Mushnick would note, nitpicking one instance of poor judgment as an example of an entire career's worth of work would be unfair. Or would he?

While there is an argument to be made about the promotion of violence and sexism in popular music, hip-hop shouldn't be singled out, and Chance the Rapper shouldn't be the target. Next time, Mushnick, if you want to write an op-ed criticizing one of our city's most exciting and most humane artists, maybe you should actually listen. I'd recommend "Surf." Or, maybe take a trip to Chicago and check out his next show. Tickets are on me.

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eat&drink

Upper crust

Robert's Pizza Company is a unique addition to Chicago's busy pizza scene

By Michael Nigrant | FOR REDEYE

B lame it on a motorcycle.

A 1972 Triumph Bonneville, to be exact. Tired of taking it to numerous gas-station mechanics to be fixed, marine engineer Robert Garvey took the bike apart—all the way down to the very last bolt—so he could understand how the thing worked. He put it back together and then drove the bike cross-country to visit an old friend in Colorado.

It was just one of many times Garvey would obsessively examine something to figure out what made it tick. Garvey eventually moved on from motorcycles. As a Chicago transplant by way of New York, he couldn't find a slice of pizza he loved here.

"I was like, 'How hard could it be? It's flour, water and yeast,'" he explained. "So I started baking pizzas at home. My first one was terrible. The ones after that were even worse."

So began a 20-year quest of discovery, deconstruction and, ultimately, the creation of his own divine dough. Garvey experimented with Neapolitan, California and Chicago styles. He even trained at the Scuola Italiana Pizzaioli, becoming a certified Pizzaioli. He baked in wood ovens, steel ovens and brick ovens. The quest ended with something he calls "Za Dough" and the recent opening of Robert's Pizza Company in Streeterville.

The scene

If you want to see what that Triumph looks like, it's been mounted in all its gleaming glory over the restaurant's host stand. In fact, when I called Garvey to interview him, he asked if he could call me back because he was installing a serious piece of equipment. While I waited for him, I imagined him test-driving some newfangled dough mixer, but it turned out he was just mounting the motorcycle. I asked him what he thinks when he looks at the bike now, assuming he'd throw out some nostalgic gem. Instead he laughed and said, "That I need another motorcycle."

The rest of the industrial-skewing tri-level space is full of chocolate-brown wood tables, exposed columns and brick. The room was filled with a mix of families and the post-work Loop crowd.

Huevos rancheros pizza



RATINGS KEY

- ★★★★ DEAD UPON ARRIVAL
- ★★★★ PROCEED WITH CAUTION
- ★★★★ GIVE IT SOME TIME
- ★★★★ TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT
- ★★★★ OFF TO A GOOD START
- ★★★★ HEATING UP
- ★★★★ ALREADY HOT

Fennel sausage with
caramelized onion

The food

The thing that really excites me is when a chef has a unique point of view. Having eaten more pizza than any single other type of food, I thought I'd seen everything. But Garvey's crust—the result of a three-day cold fermentation and 575-degree gas-fired brick oven—is unique. It has the blistered, crusty edges of a Neapolitan pie and the thinness and sharp angles of a New York slice. But what really sets it apart is its flaky crispness. These slices don't droop and sag at the tip; they crack when you fold them. Best of all, they maintain their integrity when they're cold or reheated in a toaster oven, something I did two days in a row with my leftovers. It's rare that I eat a slice that tastes as good the next day as it did when it came out of the oven.

"Dana [Garvey's wife and business partner] says 'We love dough responsibly,'" Garvey said.

Indeed they do. That crispness is contrasted with a bubbled interior that looks like the innards of a fine croissant. It eats like a slice of artisanal sourdough. You won't leave this crust on your plate.

There are tons of set flavor combinations on offer, but I started out with my own construction of fennel sausage, caramelized

onion and a mix of cremini, shiitake and oyster mushrooms with a tomato-sauce base (\$21.50 for this pie, but price varies based on toppings). The sausage is cooked before it's tossed on the raw pizza dough to avoid slicking the pie with grease. The golden-hued onions have been cooked for over four hours and offer a sweet and jammy component to balance out the deep, earthy perfume of the mushrooms. California tomatoes are used to make the sauce, a conscious choice by Garvey over Italian San Marzanos, which are often thick, sweet and pasty. These tomatoes are bright and acidic, offering a nice counterpoint to the richer ingredients. A base of fresh cow's milk mozzarella is a creamy addition. Yes, this is a fancy pie, but it comes with a substantial crave factor. I would be happy eating this pizza every Friday night while watching the Sox.

Even fancier is a pizza dotted with roasted red grapes, fennel, walnuts and tangy taleggio cheese (\$20). I loved the bright woody aroma of the walnuts and pungent sweetness of the concentrated grapes, but I wanted an acidic component here—perhaps a spritz of lemon or a drizzle of sherry vinegar.

The huevos rancheros pizza (\$18) is dripping with black beans, fresh chorizo, tomatillo-spiked salsa verde, salty queso fresco and spicy cilantro leaves. The whole thing is topped with a few over-easy eggs, creating a hangover helper or stoner's dream come true. This pie is almost perfect, but the eggs tasted like they weren't salted and muted some of the flavorful elements below. When I mentioned this to Garvey, he suggested that I should have pierced the egg yolk and mixed it around before grabbing a slice, something our server didn't mention when the pie arrived.

By now, you might know that I'm perplexed by the breadstick paradox at pizza places. Why do people order breadsticks with dipping sauce as an appetizer before they eat more bread with tomato sauce in the form of pizza? Thankfully, Garvey doesn't offer breadsticks, which forced me to go for a plate of meatballs (\$8) dripping in that bright acidic marinara sauce and roofed with shaved mozzarella. These days, many people grind meatballs so finely that the end result is like eating a sponge. The veal and beef blend here is coarse like chopped steak

and stuffed with focaccia crumbs. Woodsy, spicy bits of thyme pop with each bite.

You could also go the lighter route in favor of a seasonal salad (\$9) with leafy ribbed bibb lettuce, crisp apple slices, toasted hazelnuts and salty bits of pecorino glistening with a sharp apple cider vinaigrette.

The drinks

There's a decent selection of wines by the glass, but I stuck to a pint of Moody Tongue Sliced Nectarine IPA (\$7). It's a delicate brew with a lilt of hoppiness, but instead of that big grapefruit bomb you're used to getting with an IPA, the nose here boasts gentle, peachy lemon notes that pair nicely with the apple and hazelnut salad.

Bottom line

Garvey has created a unique pizza crust that's worth seeking out. That's no easy feat in a city that has an endless supply of pizzerias. Some of the set flavor combinations need a little tweaking on seasoning, but many are perfect. And yeah, the meatballs are pretty great, too.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.

MINI-REVIEW Robert's Pizza Company

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theater



Strip Joker

set the scene

6 CHICAGO SHOWS TO SEE THIS WEEK

By Gwendolyn Purdom | FOR REDEYE

Step away from the Netflix marathon and find your way into one of these local theaters for a belly laugh this week. Your guide to Chicago's affordable and under-the-radar comedy scene awaits.

**THURSDAY
Strip Joker**

Gorilla Tango Theatre Bucktown
1919 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-598-4549

Think strip poker, but instead of losing an item of clothing when you draw a bad hand, these comics get progressively more naked if their jokes flop. In partnership with the You Are Beautiful campaign, the show, headlined this month by Cody Melcher, emphasizes body positivity. 8 p.m. \$15. Tickets: gorillatango.com

**I Wrote This For Me;
Do You Like it?**

IO Theater
1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401

Written by Rose Boyle, this autobiographically themed production is a part sketch show, part play that examines what it's like to be a single woman in today's world through the eyes of a recently deceased writer. 10:30 p.m. \$5. Tickets: ioimprov.com

**FRIDAY
Pulp—Investigative Improv**

The pH Comedy Theater
1515 W. Berwyn Ave. 773-961-8214

Fans of cheesy true crime TV will especially appreciate the format of this improvised three-act show: The audience chooses the victim, and the cast launches an investigation in the vein of "Snapped" or "Making a Murderer." 9:30 p.m. \$8-\$12. Tickets: whatisph.com

**SATURDAY
Tony Hinchcliffe**

Zanies
1548 N. Wells St.
312-337-4027

The Comedy Central writer and comedian

behind popular comedy podcast "Kill Tony" performs three shows. 7, 9 and 11:15 p.m. \$25. Tickets: chicagozanies.com

A Swarm of Spoilers

Under the Gun Theater

956 W. Newport Ave. 773-270-3440

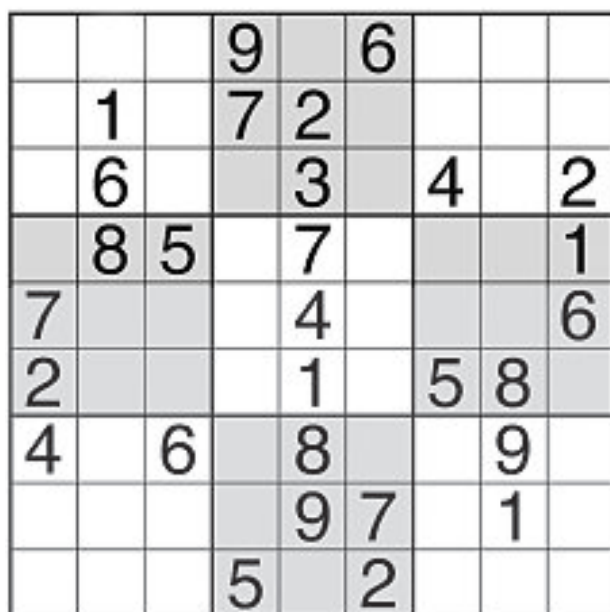
Ahead of the "Game of Thrones" Season 6 premiere, this parody recap condenses the first five seasons into a single comedy show. 7 p.m. \$18. Tickets: undertheguntheater.com

**TUESDAY
Open Books and
Laugh: Stand up
for Literacy!**

Laugh Factory Chicago
3175 N. Broadway St. 773-327-3175

Featuring comedians including Chris Bader, Kelsie Huff, Adam Burke, Pat Tomasulo and more, this third annual benefit will help fund Open Books' reading and writing programs. 8 p.m. \$20-\$30. Tickets: laughfactory.com
GWENDOLYN PURDOM IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. @GWENPURDOM REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM





DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★



WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

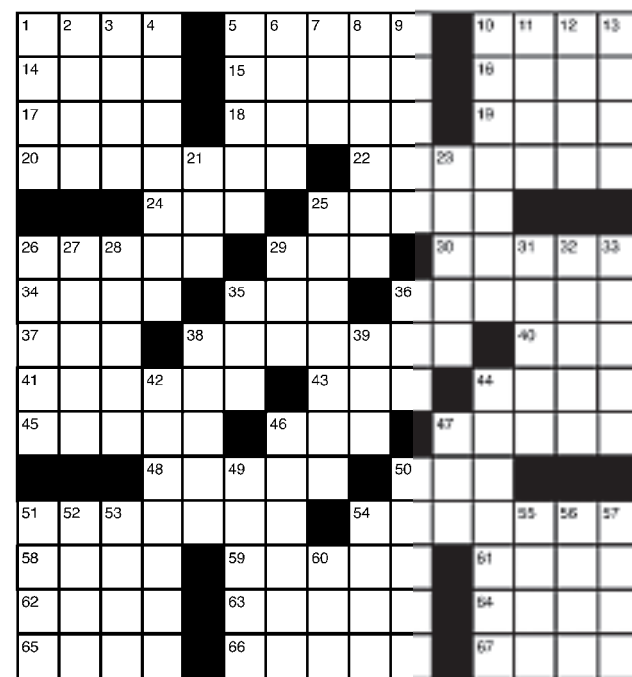


ACROSS

- 1 Drinks slowly
5 Barbecue rods
10 Trudge
14 "For Your Eyes _":
007 movie
15 Religious belief
16 Nighttime dance party
17 Flying saucers, for short
18 Proprietor
19 Hotpoint appliance
20 Author Beatrix and her family
22 Budapest's nation
24 BPOE member
25 Longest bone in the body
26 Judd or Campbell
29 Opponent
30 24_ gold
34 Blunders
35 Have a bug
36 Death
37 Marry
38 Sweating bullets
40 _ a number on: harmed
41 Get-up-and-go
43 "Pomp _ Circumstance"
44 _ ringer: spitting image
45 Harder to find
46 Years lived
47 Too sentimental
48 Stop
50 Companion
51 Window covers
54 Panacea
58 Frog's cousin
59 Capital of Afghanistan
61 Hopping insect
62 Shaping tool
63 Dishonest folks
64 Secondhand
65 Swamp stalk
66 Gladden
67 Game defeat

DOWN

- 1 Chowder
2 Facts, for short
3 Story line
4 Respiratory and circulatory
5 Baby carrier?



- 6 Church seats
7 Hostel
8 Goggle
9 Play the banjo
10 Theatergoer's booklet
11 Etna's output
12 Above
13 Opposite of "admit"
21 Actor Wallach
23 Heats in the microwave
25 Greenery
26 More modern
27 Stadium
28 Neatness
29 Repair
31 Passenger
32 Thai or Laotian
33 Child's bear
35 Not at _ time: never
36 Failure
38 Concur
39 Afternoon hour
42 Flowed back
44 Very sad
45 Attack
47 Carry or Prius
49 Foot to leg connector
50 Vital sign in the wrist
51 Night twinder
52 Morse
53 Level a building
54 Ruddy's brief
55 In addition
56 Foggy & Spike
57 Nautica
60 Sheep's cry



BRAIN CANDY

- » There was a petition for a 14th state, the state of Franklin, in the 1780s.
» An "icephobic" coating could mean never scraping your windshield again.
» There were several supercontinents on Earth before Pangaea.
» A power plant in Albertville, France, generates electricity from cheese.

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red hot

THERE WILL BE MORE BATFLECK

Warner Bros. is moving forward with Ben Affleck's standalone "Batman" movie, studio chairman and CEO Kevin Tsujihara confirmed Tuesday at CinemaCon in Las Vegas. Affleck will star in and direct the film, thr.com reported. There's no other information about the film, but according to THR, there are two slots it could fill that Warner Bros. has reserved for DC films: Oct. 5, 2018, and Nov. 1, 2019.

THE QUOTE

"I JUST DON'T WANT HIM TO THINK I'M NOT COOL."

—Chris Evans, to Jimmy Kimmel on Monday, about someday maybe meeting New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady.



Chris Evans, who is clearly so cool
AP PHOTO

Spidey is coming home

Tom Holland's incarnation of Spider-Man officially has a title: "Spider-Man: Homecoming." Sony revealed the name Tuesday at CinemaCon. Tom Rothman of Sony said the title is "obviously a high school reference and shows Peter Parker's enduring conflict—saving the world and getting your homework done," according to vulture.com. Holland added that Peter Parker is "trying to find his way home." The movie is set to hit theaters July 7, 2017, but you can get your first glimpse of Spider-Man in May in Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War."

A lot is happening for Sony

Sony confirmed a whole lot of crap at CinemaCon on Tuesday, including a "Charlie's Angels" re-boot directed by Elizabeth Banks and a "21 Jump Street" and "Men in Black" crossover. According to ew.com, the studio is also planning sequels for "Hotel Transylvania" and "The Smurfs," as well as a new movie called "The Emoji Movie," because that's something you didn't know you really needed.



HOT DATE

MAY 4 That's when you'll be able to buy tickets for the original "Star Wars" trilogy. Confused? Nah, don't be. The first three movies are coming back to theaters in more than 20 cities in August, according to variety.com. They are set to be shown in their 1997 re-release format. So far there isn't a Chicago release date, but maybe we can hope? Or we can all just move.

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